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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY-REGION VII
REGIONAL HEARING CLERK

BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR

Respondent

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1. The following Findings of Violation are made and Order for Compliance ("Order") issued pursuant to the authority of Section 309(a)(3) of the Clean Water Act ("CWA" or "Act"), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(a)(3). This authority has been delegated by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") to the Regional Administrator, EPA, Region 7, and redelegated to the Director of Region 7's Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division.
2. The Respondent is Gary Wedel Farms who owns and operates an animal feeding operation permitted to confine 1,800 beef cattle near Burns, Kansas. The animal feeding operation ("Facility") is located in the NW1/4 of Section 5 and the NE1/4 of Section 6, Township 23 South, Range 4 East in Butler County, Kansas.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

3. Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), prohibits the discharge of pollutants except in compliance with, *inter alia*, Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.
4. Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, provides that pollutants may be discharged only in accordance with the terms of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) permit issued pursuant to that Section.
5. Section 504(12) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(12), defines the term “discharge of pollutant” to include “any addition of any pollutant to navigable waters from any point source.”
6. To implement Section 402 of the CWA, the EPA promulgated regulations codified at 40 C.F.R. § 122. Under C.F.R. § 122.1, a NPDES permit is required for the discharge of pollutants from any point source into waters of the United States.
7. “Pollutant” is defined by Section 502(6) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362 to include, *inter alia*, biological materials and agricultural waste discharged to water.
8. “Point source” is defined by Section 502(14) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362 to include “any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation . . . from which pollutants are or may be discharged.”
9. “Animal feeding operation” or “AFO” is defined by 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(b)(1) as a lot or facility where animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any twelve month period, and where crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility.
10. “Concentrated animal feeding operation” or “CAFO” is defined by 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(b)(2) as an animal feeding operation that is defined as a Large CAFO in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(b)(3).
11. “Large CAFO” is defined according to 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(b)(4)(iii) as an animal feeding operation that stables or confines more than “1,000 cattle other than mature dairy cows or veal calves.”

12. "Waters of the United States" are defined in 40 C.F.R. § 122.2 to include intrastate rivers and streams, and tributaries thereto.
13. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment ("KDHE") is the agency within the State of Kansas with the delegated authority to administer the federal NPDES Program pursuant to Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, and a Memorandum of Understanding between EPA and KDHE. EPA maintains concurrent enforcement authority with delegated state NPDES programs for violations of the CWA.

Factual Background

14. Respondent owns and operates an animal feeding operation that is located in the NW1/4 of Section 5 and the NE1/4 of section 6, Township 23 South, Range 4 East in Butler County, Kansas.
15. On February 7, 2008, EPA personnel conducted a compliance evaluation inspection of the Facility.
16. The Facility confines and feeds or maintains cattle for a total of forty-five (45) days or more in any twelve month period.
17. Neither crops, vegetation, forage growth, nor post harvest residues are sustained over any portion of the Facility's feeding areas.
18. The Facility is an AFO as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(b)(1), and as that phrase is used in Section 502(14) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(14).
19. At the time of the EPA inspection, the Facility was confining approximately 1,702 head of cattle and the Facility is permitted to confine 1,800 head. The number of cattle confined and fed at the Facility is greater than 1,000, therefore the Facility is a large CAFO as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 122.23(b)(4).
20. Respondent is currently operating under a NPDES permit (KS0097179) which was issued on March 10, 2004 and expires March 9, 2009.

Findings of Violation

Count 1

21. Respondent's NPDES permit requires Respondent to collect all precipitation induced runoff and/or dry weather wastewater in an approved collection and retention structure capable of preventing water pollution.
22. During EPA's inspection referenced in paragraph 15 above, inspectors observed cattle confined in an unpermitted pen with direct access to a waterway flowing through the pen into a fresh water pond. The pond is not an approved collection structure for process waste water listed in Respondent's permit.
23. Respondent's failure to collect all process waste water in an approved collection structure is a violation of Respondent's NPDES Permit, and as such, is a violation of Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.

Count 2

24. Respondent's NPDES permit requires that water pollution control facilities be operated and maintained to ensure structural stability and with sufficient storage capacity. Specifically, the permit requires all waste retention structures to have adequate operating levels to contain process wastewater for a two-week period plus precipitation induced flow from a 25-year, 24-hour storm event.
25. According to Respondent's operational records, on dates between January 2007 and December 2007, Respondent failed to maintain adequate operating levels as required by its NPDES permit and failed to dispose of waste water contained within its runoff storage structures on days defined as suitable for land application.
26. Respondent's failure to maintain adequate operating levels and failure to land-apply waste water on days suitable for land application are violations of Respondent's NPDES Permit, and as such, are violations of Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.

Count 3

27. Respondent's NPDES permit states that available storage depth shall be recorded daily whenever the water level infringes on the required operating levels or the required storage capacity is not available in any retention structure. Daily records are to be kept until the required storage capacity is again available.
28. According to Respondent's operational records for January 2007 to December 2007, records were not kept daily when operating levels were exceeded.

29. Respondent's failure to record available storage depth when water level exceeded the required operating levels is a violation of Respondent's NPDES Permit, and as such, is a violation of Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.

Order For Compliance

Based on the Findings of Violation set forth above, and pursuant to Sections 308(a) and 309(a)(3) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1318(a) and 1319(a)(3), Respondent is hereby ORDERED to take the following actions to eliminate its violations of the CWA:

30. Respondent shall only confine cattle within areas that runoff is controlled and diverted to approved runoff storage structures. Respondent shall immediately remove and properly dispose manure from areas where runoff is not diverted to approved storage structures.
31. Respondent shall ensure that waste water levels in storage structures are in compliance with the storage structure operating levels of Respondent's NPDES permit. On an ongoing basis, Respondent shall remove waste water from the storage structures in a timely manner so that the Facility remains in continuous compliance with storage structure operating level requirements. Respondent shall comply with all applicable requirements regarding the proper land application of wastes.
32. Respondent shall ensure that it meets or exceeds the inspection and record keeping requirements of its NPDES permit.
33. Within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall inform EPA, in writing, of all actions that Respondent has taken and will take to comply with its NPDES permit, the CWA, and the terms of this Order.
34. On a monthly basis for one year, Respondent shall submit to EPA copies of all lagoon level, precipitation, and land application monthly records that Respondent is required to keep pursuant to Respondent's NPDES permit and copies of monthly operational records.
35. The first monthly report shall be submitted to EPA on June 10, 2008 and subsequent reports shall be submitted on the 10th day of each month until the final report which is due June 10, 2009.

Effect of Order

36. Compliance with the terms of this Order shall not relieve Respondent of liability for, or preclude EPA from initiating an administrative or judicial enforcement action to recover penalties for any violations of the CWA, or seek additional injunctive relief, pursuant to Section 309 of the CWA, 42 U.S.C. § 1319.
37. This Order shall not constitute a permit under the CWA. Compliance with the terms of this Order shall not relieve Respondent of its responsibility to obtain any required local, state and/or federal permits.
38. Nothing in this Order shall limit EPA's right to obtain access to, and/or inspect Respondent's Facility, and/or to request additional information from Respondent, pursuant to the authority of Section 308 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1318.
39. EPA may subsequently amend this Order in accordance with the authority of the CWA. For example, EPA may amend this Order to address any noncompliance with the CWA, including, but not limited to, any noncompliance with the requirements of Section 402 of the CWA. In the event of any such subsequent amendment to this Order, all requirements for performance of this Order not affected by the amendment shall remain as specified by this original Order.
40. If any provision or authority of this Order or the application of this Order to Respondent is held by federal judicial authority to be invalid, the application to Respondent of the remainder of this Order shall remain in full force and effect and shall not be affected by such a holding.
41. All submissions to EPA required by this Order shall be sent to:

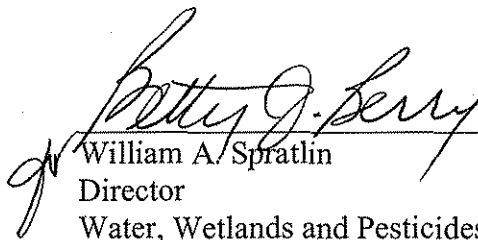
Donald Hamera
CAFO Enforcement Program
Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101.
42. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 2.201-2.311, Respondent may assert a business confidentiality claim covering any portion of the submitted information which is entitled to confidential treatment and which is not effluent data. For any such claim, describe the basis for the claim under the applicable regulation. Any material for which business confidentiality is claimed should be placed in a separate envelope labeled, "Confidential Business


Information.” Failure to assert a claim in the manner described in 40 C.F.R. § 2.203(b) allows the EPA to release the submitted information to the public without further notice. The EPA may disclose information subject to the business confidentiality claim only to the extent set forth in the above-cited regulations. Special rules governing information obtained under the CWA appear in 40 C.F.R. § 2.302.

43. Notice is hereby given that violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the provisions of the foregoing Order may subject Respondent to (1) civil penalties of up to \$32,500 per day for each violation, pursuant to Section 309(d) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(d); or (2) civil action in federal court for injunctive relief, pursuant to Section 309(b) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(b).
44. The terms of this Order shall be effective and enforceable against Respondent upon its receipt of the Order.

Date

05/12/08


William A. Spratlin
Director
Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division


Chris Muehlberger
Assistant Regional Counsel

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the date note below I filed the original and one true and correct copy of the signed original Findings of Violation and Order of Compliance with the Regional Hearing Clerk, Region 7.

I further certify that I sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, a true and correct copy of the signed original Findings of Violation and Order for Compliance together with cover letter to:

Gary Wedel
Gary Wedel Farms
17830 NW Diamond Road
Burns, Kansas 66840

I further certify that on the date noted below, I sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, a true and correct copy of the signed original Findings of Violation and Order for Compliance to the following representative of the State of Kansas:

Karl Meuldener, Director
Bureau of Water
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
1000 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 420
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Kathy Rowan

5/13/08
Date